

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Linda Chapa-LaVia

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Agriculture in Illinois Oral History Project

Interview # AI-A-L-2011-019

Linda Chapa-LaVia, Illinois State Representative (D) 83rd District, was interviewed about her involvement with school consolidation issues on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Agriculture in Illinois* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: June 7th, 2011 Location: State Representatives office in Aurora, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library volunteer

Transcription by: Susan Burke, ALPL volunteer

Edited by: Jan Culp, ALPL volunteer

Total Pages: 21 pgs. Total Time: 1:08 / 1.3 hrs.

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The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Linda Chapa-LaVia, Agriculture in Illinois, AI-A-L-2011-019

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Linda Chapa LaVia was born on August 16th, 1966 in Aurora, Illinois. She is a graduate of East Aurora High School in 1984 and attended Northern Illinois University, where she also participated in ROTC. Upon graduation from the University of Illinois Chicago in 1991, she was commissioned a second lieutenant, serving in the U.S. Army and later, the Illinois Army National Guard. She has been a self-employed real estate broker with her mother's real Estate Agency, Chapa Real Estate. In 2002 Chapa LaVia was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives. Representative Chapa LaVia (D-Aurora) serves the 83rd District. She is the first woman legislator to have served on active duty. In the General Assembly, she serves on several committees, including Education (chair), Veteran's Affairs and Telecommunications (see details on General Assembly home page). She has served eight years a legislator.

Chapa LaVia discussed school consolidation issues and, specifically, Illinois House Bill 1216 (2012), which would create the School District Realignment and Consolidation Commission. She also addressed current ways that schools can reorganize and state incentives regarding such reorganizations. The objective of the commission would be to examine the appropriate number of school districts, their optimal enrollment and locations where reorganization would be helpful.

Subject Headings/Key Words: school reorganization; reform act of 1985; school construction; state incentive; transportation reimbursement; school deactivation, deconsolidation, consolidation and annexation; Illinois House Bill 1216; Lt. Governor Sheila Simon

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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